



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Matthew Hoppock
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 72294
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Somerville, MA 02144
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Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2019-007117
Request No. 2019-30982
CDT:EMY

VIA: Email

Dear Matthew Hoppock:

You appealed from the action of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to "emails to or from David Neal, Chairman of the BIA, since January 1, 2017 mentioning the phrase 'special project.'" I note that your appeal concerns the adequacy of EOIR's search for records.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming EOIR's action on your request. EOIR informed you that it could locate no responsive records subject to the FOIA in its files. I have determined that EOIR's action was correct and that it conducted an adequate, reasonable search for such records.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of EOIR in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the

action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

7/7/2020

X 

Matthew W. Hurd
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD